

Welcome Centers

When enrolling multicultural students, including recently arrived immigrants, the first experience at the school should be a positive one. To facilitate a smooth transition to Missouri schools, a growing number of districts are opening Welcome Centers staffed with English language development (ELD) leaders and interpreters that are able to gather important information about the student's linguistic and educational background as well as provide language assistance services as the families complete the necessary paperwork. Some have common areas with items to entertain young family members during the enrollment process. Importantly, the school can provide resources to help the family settle in to the new community and aide the acculturation process. Important areas to discuss are:

- Course schedules
- Navigating the school
- Homework/Grading Policies
- Attendance & Discipline Policies
- Lunch Options & Routines
- Transportation
- Events (P/T Conferences)
- Dress Code (& winter clothing)
- Inclement Weather/Emergencies
- Summer School
- School/Community Resources
- Clubs & Sports
- District Programs (SPED, Gifted, etc)
- Parent rights/responsibilities

Please see the [Cultural Orientation Resource Center](#) for more useful links and materials.